

On page one
"More than
a meal"

From Herb Smith

On page four
Signs
of Hope

By Steven W. Schultze

On page five
Happy
Anniversary, ADC!
Impacting the lives of women for 24 years

FEBRUARY 2016

CROSSROADS

LosAngelesMission.org

News from the
Los Angeles Mission

"If I have the chance to talk to people about the ADC, I tell them that this is one program that will really stay in your mind even when you leave from here. I felt at home."

-DOTHLYN JONES
ADC STUDENT



Los Angeles
Mission
The Crossroads of Hope



EVENTS

Find out what's
coming up at the Mission
PAGE 1

EVERY BED, EVERY DAY

Read about this ministry
and learn about the blessing
of a Bed Ticket
PAGE 3

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dimson Velasco's inspirational
story of breaking the cycle...with hope
PAGE 4

Finding her true self

Dothlyn Jones needed a second chance and found so much more at the ADC. PAGE 2



"To see our graduates give back and pass on the love and care they received at the Mission to someone else—that embodies what 'more than a meal' means to me."

"More than a meal" means giving back

Recently, an elderly man with some medical issues came to the Mission. One of our alumni volunteers immediately stepped in to take care of him and helped him get showered, get clean clothes and settled in one of our emergency beds for the night.

That same alum came back at 5 a.m. the next morning to check on this gentleman and make sure he had the medical care he needed. To see our graduates give back and pass on the love and care they received at the Mission to someone else—that embodies what "more than a meal" means to me.

We don't want to solely meet the physical needs of the hurting men, women and children who come through our doors. The physical needs are important, but we want to meet their spiritual and mental health needs too.

Another example of the care we provide is our beloved Anne Douglas Center, which celebrates its 24th anniversary on Valentine's Day. I have seen the ripple effect of women who graduate from the ADC and have the ability to be independent, safe and also reunite with family. Children are positively impacted through that process as well. Because the mother was in the ADC to recover, we can end homelessness for a family and for subsequent generations. Praise God!

You play a vital role in the hope and change we provide that carries on across generations of families in our community. Thank you for your compassion for the needs of the hungry and homeless people living on Skid Row.

Blessings,

Herb Smith

Herb Smith, President



Many thanks to The Goldwin Foundation, the Johnny Carson Foundation, City National Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and LATLC (LA Trial Lawyers' Charities) for sponsoring our 79th Gala.

EVENTS



Volunteer Orientation: February 6th, 9-11 a.m.

Anyone who would like to volunteer must first attend an orientation session at the Mission. To register for the upcoming orientation, please visit us online at LosAngelesMission.org/act. Come join us!

Graduation: February 12th

Join us at the Mission to celebrate the men and women who will be graduating from our Fresh Start program. You can also tune in to a LIVE streaming of the ceremony at www.ecl247.com

Easter Street Event: March 25th

Join us to celebrate Easter with our friends and neighbors on Skid Row! We'll be giving away Easter baskets, toys and many other items. It's one of the best events of the year, and you won't want to miss it!

Did you know?

The Mission provides 12,000 nights of shelter each month to men and women in need.



STAY CONNECTED

Keep track of the latest Mission news, make safe online donations and more.



Donate online:
donate.losangelesmission.org



Become a fan on Facebook:
facebook.com/losangelesmission



Follow us on Twitter:
[@TheLAMission](https://twitter.com/TheLAMission)



Subscribe to our video channel:
youtube.com/ILoveLAMission



Check out our photos on Instagram:
[@TheLAMission](https://instagram.com/TheLAMission)

Finding her true self

Dothlyn Jones is a current student in our Fresh Start program at the Anne Douglas Center. She came into the program in June and shared with us how the ADC has helped her work through depression—and blossom into the woman God intended her to be.

I was homeless for three months and living out of my car with my daughter. I was dealing with a lot of depression. By the grace of God and a family member, I came to the Anne Douglas Center.

My life was filled with bad decision-making. Living out of my car was very difficult. It wasn't something I wanted for myself or for my daughter. I was just lost for a while, and didn't know what to do or how to be. I was really run down and needed a second chance in my life.

When I made it here to the Los Angeles Mission and the ADC, I was able to get the help I needed. I think I've really blossomed and found my true self.

Growing in wisdom and supporting others

The Basic Doctrine class really helped me settle in at the ADC. I was a little scared and overwhelmed at first, and this class kept it really basic for me. From then on I felt more comfortable and just wanted to expand my knowledge and continue to grow.

“The Anne Douglas Center is somewhere you can lean on anyone’s shoulder. There are ladies here that are just amazing in who they are, and I love them all.”

**~DOTHLYN JONES
ADC STUDENT**

The wisdom and knowledge here in this building is amazing—the people who work here are incredible. Everyone takes pride in our Center and really likes what they do. That's important to me.

As for as the other women in the program with me, we have a lot of support for each other. The ladies have been really, really great. We're like a family. If someone is having a problem, we're right there to help.

There will be times when someone doesn't really want to talk about their situation, but I try to encourage the women that come in here and let them know that this is somewhere safe. The Anne Douglas Center is somewhere you can lean on anyone's shoulder. There are ladies here that are just amazing in who they are, and I love them all.

If I have the chance to talk to people about the ADC, I tell them that this is one program that will really stay in your mind even when you leave from here. I felt at home in this program. I feel like I have done something good for myself, for my daughter and for my family. I've really advanced in who I am.

I want to thank the donors because they allow us to work hard and shoot for the stars. They make it all possible.

Thank you for your support. You have made an impact in the lives of countless students and guests just like Dothlyn. God bless you!



Every Bed, Every Day

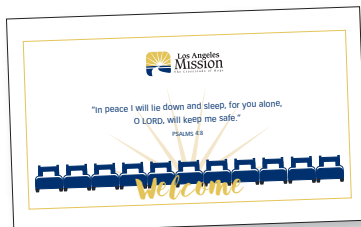
“Hope begins with knowing that someone cares.”



The importance of physical rest cannot be overestimated when it comes to meeting the spiritual and mental needs of a person who comes to the Mission.

We believe strongly in the blessing of rest for someone in need, and that's why we invite our donors and volunteers to participate in our Every Bed, Every Day program. This ministry, launched over the summer, provides a way for individuals, families and organizations to come pray over the beds in the Genesis Dorm. The people praying over the beds come in during the day before our guests enter the sleeping quarters for the night. The power of prayer and a note of encouragement go a long way for our guests to feel cared for physically, spiritually and mentally.

“A valuable need in the process of becoming self-sufficient is receiving a meal and a place to sleep,” says Tim Law, Chaplain of Emergency Services. “Providing a healthy meal to someone who is hungry helps them begin to peel back the layer of obstacles preventing them from focusing on their real needs.”



When our friends and neighbors living on Skid Row receive a Bed Ticket from the Mission, they receive three hot meals daily, overnight shelter, clean clothes, a hot shower and one-on-one counseling. At the Mission, we are so grateful to our donors and volunteers who make this program possible through their resources and their prayers.

“One constant I see in all who receive our assistance is the flicker of hope returning to their eyes,” says Tim. “Hope begins with a meal. Hope begins with a bed. Hope begins with feeling safe. Hope begins with knowing that someone cares.”

Thank you for all you do to show our guests and students that someone cares for them. God bless you!

► For more information or to participate in our Every Bed, Every Day ministry, please contact Sheila Moweta at (213) 629-1227 ext. 301.

The blessing of a Bed Ticket

Providing a meal is so vital in meeting the immediate physical need for someone who is hurting and hungry, but that meal also opens up possibilities to restore a broken life.



Bed Ticket

Those in need of emergency shelter can get a clean, comfortable bed to sleep on in our Genesis Dorm. We have 180 beds for those in need of shelter.

Shower and a shower kit

A hot shower can be cleansing for the body and soul. The Mission provides a shower kit with all the toiletries necessary for our guests to use in our showers.

Meals

The Mission provides three hot meals a day to our friends and neighbors in need who are living on Skid Row. We serve as many as 1,500 meals a day. The Bed Ticket gives them breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Clothes

The Mission has clean, gently used clothes to provide to anyone in need. The donated clothes allow our students and guests to put on fresh clothing after their hot shower.



Counseling

The first meal can open the door to our neighbors in need, helping them learn more about the services we provide at the Mission. They can find help with access to housing and mental healthcare services, and learn about our programs and ministries.



“...my transformation started with the first meal, first shower, a night in a warm bed.”

~MISSION ALUM

Signs of Hope

By *Steven W. Schultze, Vice President of Program*

As a faith-based organization, we want to reflect the love of Jesus Christ, knowing that those who come through the doors of the Mission have needs beyond just a hungry stomach.

The meal leads people to see that this is a place providing safety in a caring environment.

A place that promotes hope for the moment, the day and the future. Our goal is to reach out to help with clothing, shelter and prayer. Guests and neighbors hear a message of encouragement and hope when they get here. That's how we can be a place that provides

more than a meal. We provide hope and a path to a new life.

We want to be a resource center that provides the building blocks out of poverty and homelessness. Our neighbors living on Skid Row need a pathway to restoration from the inside-out. That is what we hope

to provide to each student and guest who comes to the Mission.

One student last year lost everything in his life before coming to the

Mission. His relationships with his family were broken. He knew that restoration was crucial and relied on the Mission to create a path of stability in his life. While at the

“We know hope is always there at the Los Angeles Mission.”

CROSSROADS



Mission, he learned his son had been murdered. Although devastated, he trusted God and the Mission to help rebuild his broken life. Praise God that the power of Christ's love allowed him to heal and reunite with his family.

As seen with this story, life can be incredibly difficult. We know hope is always there at the Los Angeles Mission. We are truly grateful for your prayers and support that make the Mission the crossroads of hope.

Breaking the cycle...with hope

Dimson Velasco came to the Mission in 2012 after battling 15 years of addiction to methamphetamine. In and out of jail and burning every bridge and relationship he had, he came to the Mission with little hope. He shared his story of redemption and perseverance with us.

For over 15 years, I remained in the same cycle. I was stuck!

In my addiction to meth, I destroyed many lives, starting with my own family. Eventually I ran out of places to stay, and I was living out of my car. I lost my car and ended up in county jail, a place I was all too familiar with.

When I was released from prison, I wandered the streets for two weeks and decided to follow the voice within me that urged me to seek help at the Mission. I was welcomed with open arms; everyone at the Mission held my hand every step of the way.



“I thank all of you.”

~DIMSON VELASCO
MISSION ALUM

Overcome with joy

In the hours leading up to graduation day, I was overcome with emotion. I had tears of joy watching 15 years of pain, brokenness and darkness disappear like clouds, one-by-one. I was sober, and I had hope and a future with Jesus in my life.

For a year after graduation, I had a few temporary jobs, but nothing worked out. I told myself that during the Fresh Start phase of the program, no one gave up on me—this was not the time for me to give up! I doubled my efforts to search for a job and am now a full-time employee as a technician at Jiffy Lube.

For the donors, you will always have a place in my heart and in my prayers. Because of you, I am alive, sober and now an active participant and productive citizen of the community. I thank all of you.

Happy 24th anniversary ADC!

On Valentine's Day 24 years ago, the Anne Douglas Center opened its doors. From that moment until today, the lives of hundreds of women have been changed forever because of the healing and hope they receive at the ADC. Dr. Roxanne Jordan, Executive Director of Program and Operations at the ADC, shared her thoughts below.

First, this anniversary marks a pivotal moment in time for us to give thanks, honor and celebrate the legacy of an amazingly caring woman and a truly philanthropic couple, Anne and Kirk Douglas. Second, it's a time to give thanks and celebrate the hundreds of women whose lives have been saved and families restored because of the Anne Douglas Center.

Crown jewel

The ADC has often been referred to as the best-kept secret at the Los Angeles Mission—but today we believe that the ADC is better known as the crown jewel of the Los Angeles Mission. The primary focus of our gender-relevant program continues to be relational, faith-based and discipleship-oriented—however, the program has shifted to incorporate a more holistic approach to recovery. We now include on-site mental health counseling, art classes and classes to address physical fitness and nutrition.

In the short term, we hope to continue to build a strong, well-trained staff. We also want to increase the discipleship component of the program and increase access to mentoring relationships for the women of the ADC.

Looking ahead, we want to build strategic partnerships with other organizations to expand our programming, and increase access to housing opportunities for the women who complete the Fresh Start program. We also want to enhance our programs for academic and vocational development.

So many students have returned and told me, “Dr. Jordan, if I hadn’t come into the Anne Douglas Center and completed the program, I would probably not be alive today!” That’s an incredible tribute to the continued generosity of Anne Douglas and her compassion for the women in need in our community.

Here's to many more years of impacting and blessing the lives of women!



Above: Anne Douglas with Lois Smith, ADC alumna.
Below: The welcoming entrance of the Anne Douglas Center.

Help provide more meals and hope—every month

At the Mission, the first meal can open the door to so many possibilities for people in need. Once they are fed physically, the Mission can help them get fed mentally and spiritually.



Monthly donations are a way to help us impact more lives each month. When you become a Meals-a-Month partner, you help provide a predictable source of income that allows us to budget more effectively for our many programs and save on our administrative costs. Most importantly, you help us provide healing and hope to more neighbors in need living on Skid Row.

If you haven't signed up to be a Meals-A-Month partner, why not make the commitment today?

► **It's easy to sign up—simply fill out the form below, or go online to our website: LosAngelesMission.org/give Or if you prefer, call Nuria Mora at (213) 629-1227, ext. 334. Thank you!**

Help women in need through Ziggedy!

Please help us support our sisters! We need bras and sports bras, especially in sizes 34-38C, 40-42D and up.

Did you know you can purchase these items, other gifts for the Mission, as well as thousands of items for you, your family and friends through ziggedy.com? Plus, by purchasing or donating items through ziggedy.com, a portion of your purchase price will go directly to the Los Angeles Mission. Imagine the impact you'll have.

► **Visit ziggedy.com today or please contact Tina Russek at (213) 629-1227, ext. 437 for more information. Thank you!**

Yes, Herb. I want to provide meals and care for hurting and hungry people living on Skid Row. Here's my gift: ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$_____

☐ **I would like to become a Meals-a-Month partner and give a monthly gift of \$_____.**

(Please check the box in the Giving Options section.)

☐ I would also like to sponsor _____ Easter baskets for just \$10 each. I have enclosed an extra gift of \$_____.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

APT _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

@ _____

EMAIL _____

Please make your check payable to: Los Angeles Mission and mail to: P.O. Box 60127, Los Angeles, CA 90060-0127

THANK YOU!

To give a gift by credit card, please fill out the information below or call (213) 629-1227, ext. 400.

☐ **Please charge my gift to my credit card.**

Giving Options:

☐ **One-time gift** ☐ **Monthly gift**
☐ **EFT (include voided check)**

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

CID/CVV _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

EXP. DATE _____

Double or triple your gift! Visit our matching gift page to find out if your employer has a corporate matching gift program at losangelesmission.org/give/matching-gifts

A receipt for your tax-deductible gift will be sent to you shortly.



Los Angeles Mission
The Crossroads of Hope

303 E. 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
losangelesmission.org

Anne Douglas
Center for Women
at the Los Angeles Mission